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To

Subject Evaluation of Soil Invertebrates at Eagle Zinc

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



387528

Jeff,

Following our discussion yesterday, the only outstanding issue was a decision to evaluate soil invertebrates in the SLERA. Because soil invertebrates are ecologically important in terms of soil structure and nutrient cycling and as food for wildlife, and because only those bioaccumulating compounds will be evaluated in the foodweb modeling, they are appropriate as assessment endpoints for the SLERA

The assessment and measurement endpoints for the soil invertebrate community to be added are below:

Assessment Endpoint - Reduction in the abundance, diversity, and production of soil invertebrate communities

Measurement Endpoints - Comparison of soil concentrations to soil quality guidelines

(Note: the wording/phrasing can be modified to make it consistent with that presented in the SLERA for the other assessment and measurement endpoints)

The soil quality guidelines are the applicable ARARs and subsequent to those, the ORNL benchmarks. After further evaluation of the Region 5 RCRA values and the Region 4 soil benchmarks, it was determined that their correspondence to the soil invertebrate community assessment endpoint is inadequately presented (i.e. their derivation is not presented). Therefore, these benchmarks will not be used for evaluation of soil invertebrate community assessment endpoint

There was also some discussion on the methodology to evaluate terrestrial receptors as it relates to the evaluation of soil invertebrate receptors. The evaluation of the soil invertebrate community assessment community with soil quality guidelines will be performed in parallel with the evaluation of the other assessment endpoints (i.e. chemicals will not first be screened with soil quality guidelines prior to foodweb modeling)

I apologize for any confusion, although this decision directly follows comments on the SLERA comments and those in the technical memorandum submitted subsequent to our last meeting

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Thanks,

Ryan

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